

PATENT

Docket No. HM-685

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Christoph Klein, et al | Conf. No.: | 6744 |
| Serial No: | 10/563,264 | Filed: | September 18, 2006 |
| For: | DEVICE FOR PRODUCING A HOT-ROLLED THERMAL STRIP, ESPECIALLY MADE OF STRIP-TYPR CONTINUOUS CASTING MATERIAL | | |
| Examiner: | Caitlin A. Fogarty | Art Unit: | 1793 |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

The attention of the Examiner and of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references cited in a parallel European patent. The references are listed on the attached form SB-08a. Copies of the foreign references are enclosed.

European reference EP0595282B1 corresponds to Canadian reference CA2109397. The English abstract for German reference DE3310867 is not available at this time.

German reference DE3708050 relates to known holding devices designed as transportable containers which have an opening on one side for the introduction and removal of the continuously cast pieces. These heavy and cumbersome containers are disadvantageous for material tracking since the

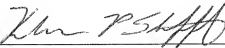
continuously cast piece introduced last has to be removed first. In order to simplify material tracking and to allow the continuously cast pieces to be transported from the continuous casting installation to the rolling mill with the aid of simple means, the holding device is designed as a stationary through-feed chamber (5). The through-feed chamber makes it possible to roll continuously cast pieces from the casting temperature, only slight heating being required before rolling.

A credit card payment in the amount of \$ 180.00 to cover the fee is being submitted herewith. Should any additional fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

With the submission of this admitted prior art, applicant thus complies with the duty of disclosure as set forth at 37 CFR 1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

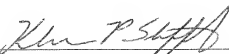
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Dated: September 9, 2011

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I hereby certify that this document is being electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents via EFS-Web on September 9, 2011.

By: 
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Dated: September 9, 2011